

In the Claims:

Clean version of the amendments in the claims

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice to Applicants' right to file continuation applications directed to the subject matter thereof.

Please rewrite the following claims:

1. (Amended) A composition comprising a melt blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide), the blend having improved melt processability and mechanical properties without the addition of plasticizers.

3. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises poly(ethylene oxide) and at least one vinyl monomer.

4. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises poly(ethylene oxide) and at least one polar vinyl monomer.

6. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 to about 30 weight percent of a polar vinyl polymer, a polar vinyl oligomer, a polar vinyl polymer or a combination thereof.

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7. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises poly(ethylene oxide) and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate or derivatives or analogs of poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate.

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8. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises poly(ethylene oxide) and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

9. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is a thermoplastic and water-soluble, and wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) is a thermoplastic and water-soluble, and wherein the composition is thermoplastic and water-soluble without the addition of plasticizers.

10. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the melt blend comprises from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

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11. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the melt blend comprises from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

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12. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the melt blend comprises from about 10 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol) compatible blend.

13. (Amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition comprising a compatible melt blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide).

14. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and at least one vinyl monomer.

15. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is a copolymer of a homopolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and at least one polar vinyl monomer.

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16. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and at least one polar vinyl monomer selected from 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

17. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 to about 30 weight percent of polar vinyl monomer, polar vinyl oligomer, polar vinyl polymer or a combination thereof.

18. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and a

monomer selected from 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate and derivatives and analogs of poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate.

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19. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

20. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is a thermoplastic and water-soluble, and wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) is thermoplastic and water-soluble.

21. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the melt blend comprises from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the grafted copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

22. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the melt blend comprises from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

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23. (Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the composition comprises from about 10 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

24. (Amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition consisting essentially of a melt blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide).

25. (Amended) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is a copolymer poly(ethylene oxide) and at least one polar, vinyl monomer.

26. (Amended) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and a monomer selected from 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate and derivatives and analogs of poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate.